



Wiehle Avenue and Reston Parkway Station Access Management Study

Reston Metrorail Access Group

April 24, 2007 Meeting Summary

Sign-in:

Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT
Dave Edwards, RMAG Member
Baba Freeman, RMAG Member
Keith Goodman, Fairfax County
Joe Leighton, RMAG Member
Paul LeValley, The Perspectives Group
Dalia Leven, VHB
Kathryn Martin, RMAG Member
Colin Mills, RMAG Member
Patty Nicoson, RMAG Chair
Merrily Pierce, Supervisor's Office
Barbara Rovin, RMAG Member
Kate Rudicille, RMAG Member
Frank Spielberg, VHB
Rick Stevens, Fairfax County
Clark Tyler, RMAG Member
Bruce Wright, RMAG Member

Members of the Public in Attendance:
Joe Stevens

Paul LeValley began the meeting by asking the RMAG members to introduce themselves, and he welcomed the newest members of the group.

Paul reviewed the Meeting Summary of the March 27th Public Meeting with the RMAG, and explained that a more detailed document had also been compiled containing the complete notes and survey results. The group reviewed the survey results, and Bruce Wright asked for clarification regarding the “walkers vs. drivers” data, noting a discrepancy between the “Meeting Summary” document and the “Public Input Notes and Conclusions” document. Paul explained that the “Meeting Summary” document was in error where it stated that most survey respondents indicated an intention to drive to the Metrorail stations. In fact, the “Notes and Conclusions” document correctly reported the data, showing that most people intended to access the station by walking or using a mobility aid. Paul noted that corrections would be made, and that a new draft of the summary would be posted online. Frank Spielberg then reviewed the Level of Service tables in the summary.

The group reviewed the outreach effort to stakeholders for the public meeting. Paul also reviewed the follow-up tasks that were performed following the meeting, including emailing a link to the county website, adding attendees to a listserv, and creating a meeting summary and public input report. The core values fact sheet and press release were also created, and logo alternatives were developed for the use of the RMAG. The group discussed possible methods of allowing the public to comment and to sign up to the listserv. Suggestions included an email link to Keith Goodman, or another County representative, a call-in number, or an online form that sends the comment directly to The Perspectives Group. Keith told the group that he would investigate options available through the County website.

Dalia and Frank from VHB reviewed the results gathered from the map exercises at the public meeting. The maps and the draft report will be available online, and color copies will be mailed to RMAG members upon request. The group mentioned that some of their small groups simply ran out of time at the public meeting, and were unable to complete or even begin the map exercise.

Paul asked the RMAG to provide comments to the summary and public input document by May 8th.

Frank Spielberg gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Profile of Existing Conditions Report. In response to questions about the density represented on the maps, Frank clarified that existing conditions and density only are represented.

Fatemeh asked if VHB would be working with Cambridge Systematics. VHB and the County will be coordinating with them, but their scope of work in the area is more limited. VHB will take their results into consideration.

Kate Rudicille expressed concern about some of the figures being mislabelled on the maps. Frank asked her to give her edits to Dalia at VHB for correction.

Fatemeh asked if the data from VHB would be available online for use at VDOT. Dalia will work with Fatemeh on this request.

Bruce Wright asked if private sidewalks were taken into consideration. Dalia explained that they were not, but that the Reston Association does have a comprehensive map of sidewalks. She also said that as the process moves along, more information about private and public walks would become available.

Bruce Wright asked if non-commuter trips were taken into consideration in the report, and Frank explained that the only comprehensive data came from the census of 2000, which only counts commuters. The members discussed the possibility of getting that data from other published reports. Frank said that the Council of Governments is in the midst of doing a very detailed survey of the sample of households in metro area, to categorize travel at all times of day, all modes, and all reasons for travel. That will be an excellent source in the future.

Anyone wishing to view the complete PowerPoint presentation, or the Profile of Existing Conditions Report can view them on the county's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/sam_study.htm.

Patty Nicoson asked the group to consider adding a Bike and Pedestrian Committee to the existing Outreach and Communication Committees of the RMAG. Fatemeh suggested that Charlie Strunk be asked to participate. Bruce, Fatemeh (or a representative from her office) agreed to join. It was also suggested that B.J. Silvey join the committee.

The group discussed creating a more detailed survey to include employees of the area. It was suggested that outreach meetings and presentations be held specifically for employees, and that some of the local employers could act as hosts. Frank suggested that either a brief presentation or a display be installed at the skating rink at Reston Town Center to draw interest. Rick and Patty suggested announcements on public transit. Paul said that he would work with the team to develop a distribution list.

The group discussed possible locations for the employee meetings, including the Chamber office, Oracle, and area churches. Clark Tyler shared the successful outreach meetings that took place in Tysons, and recommended that The Perspectives Group share that data with the RMAG.

Upcoming Meetings:

The RMAG agreed that the next Public Meeting would be held in July on a date to be determined. The planning of that meeting will begin at the next RMAG meeting, which will be held on May 22nd. Frank explained that he should have a good analysis of projected future demands at that time, and that it would be helpful in planning the Public Meeting.